

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EB-11 FEA-02 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01

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APPROVED BY: EB/OT/TA:WBARRACLOUGH

COMM:IEPR:OTP:TND:DSCHLECHTY

AGRICULTURE: RMCCONNEL

EB/OT/STA:EWKEMPE

STATE:EB:OT/TA:WADAMS

TREASURY: MNFELDMAN

STR:WBKELLY

HLAWRENCE

EB/OCA/REP:BEYRON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, SZ

SUBJECT: U.S. RUM DEFINITION

1. FOLLOWING IS RESPONSIVE TO INFORMAL REQUEST FOR A U.S.
DEFINITION OF LIGHT RUM WHICH SOUTH AFRICAN DEL BROUGHT UP
IN CORRIDOR TALK WITH U.S. REP AT MAY 29-31 GATT TNC
WORKING GROUP 3(B) MEETING.

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2. DEFINITION OF RUM, AS FOUND IN PART 5 (LABELING AND ADVERTISING OF DISTILLED SPIRITS) OF REGULATIONS UNDER THE FEDERAL ALCOHOL ADMINISTRATION ACT (TITLE 27, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS), IS AS FOLLOWS:

"RUM' IS AN ALCOHOLIC DISTILLATE FROM THE FERMENTED JUICE OF SUGAR CANE, SUGAR CANE SYRUP, SUGAR CANE MOLASSES, OR OTHER SUGAR CANE BYPRODUCTS, PRODUCTED AT LESS THAN 190 DEGREES PROOF IN SUCH MANNER THAT THE DISTILLATE POSSESSES THE TASTE, AROMA AND CHARACTERISTICS GENERALLY ATTRIBUTED TO RUM, AND BOTTLED AT NOT LESS THAN 80 DEGREES PROOF; AND ALSO INCLUDES MIXTURES SOLELY OF SUCH DISTILLATES."

3. FOREGOING DEFINITION DOES NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARK RUMS, BUT IN FACT EMBRACES BOTH. ACCORDING TO TREASURY (BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS), INDIVIDUAL PRODUCERS DECIDE WHETHER TO LABEL RUM AS EITHER DARK OR LIGHT VARIETY.

4. IF SAG BELIEVES ABOVE DEFINITION NOT SUFFICIENT BASIS TO RESOLVE PROBLEM, U.S. WOULD APPRECIATE ALTERNATIVE DEFINITION WHICH ALLOWS ENTRY FOR U.S. EXPORTS AS "RUM." IF, AS IN PAST, SAG RESPONDS THAT KEY TO QUALITY RUM IS "COMPOUND ESTERS" CONTENT, MISSION SHOULD REQUEST A PRECISE DEFINITION OF "COMPOUND ESTERS" FROM SAG.

5. MISSION REQUESTED DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH SA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. U.S. HOPES THIS ISSUE CAN BE RESOLVED PRIOR TO JUNE 25-28 GATT MTN GROUP 3(B) MEETING ON THE NTB INVENTORY. AS MISSION AWARE, ONE OF NOTIFICATIONS WHICH U.S. PLANS TO DISCUSS AT THIS MEETING IS NTB INVENTORY NO 316 (NEW U.S. COMPLAINT ON SOUTH AFRICAN RUM DEFINITION). SISCO

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